

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 R

DRAFTED BY CU/ARTS:LDCOE:EJ

APPROVED BY CU/ARTS:BNSTEPHENS

USIA/INA DGREY (SUP)

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

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AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS STATE 244812

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: CU/ARTS (CU/CP) - CHARLIE BYRD TRIO

REF: NEW DELHI 14245; STATE 228938 (NOTAL)

1. TRIO HOPES HAVE FINAL SCHEDULE FROM EUROPEAN IMPRESARIO IN ABOUT TEN DAYS. TENTATIVELY GROUP PLANS DEPART U.S. FEB 3 WITH ARRIVAL NEW DELHI FEB 5. AT PRESENT WOULD DEPART FOR EUROPE FEB 28. HOWEVER MAY BE ABLE GIVE US A FEW DAYS MORE DEPENDING ON WHEN FIRST EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULED. PICK UP AND RETURN POINT WILL LIKELY BE FRANKFURT. WILL ADVISE FIRM DATES ASAP.

2. AS NOTED STATE REFTTEL, DEPT/USIA WISH INCLUDE INTERESTED NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. THEREFORE CANNOT PROMISE MORE THAN TWO WEEKS TO INDIA AT THIS POINT. WILL ALLOT MORE TIME HOWEVER TO INDIA IF CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.

3. FOR COLOMBO AND KATHMANDU. PROPOSE 4 PROGRAM DAYS
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FOR SRI LANKA AND 2 FOR NEPAL. DEPT WILL FUND GROUP'S

WEEKLY PERFORMANCE FEES. CAN EMBASSY AND/OR LOCAL SPONSOR PROVIDE PER DIEM (OR ROOM AND BOARD), PLUS COST OF ROUND-TRIP DIVERSIONARY ECONOMY AIR TRAVEL FROM INDIA FOR FOUR PEOPLE (TRIO PLUS GROUP'S TOUR MANAGER) AND MAXIMUM 850 LBS EXCESS BAGGAGE (TOUR EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS)? ADVISE ASAP.

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4. DACCA IF INTERESTED WOULD BE ALTERNATE IF COLOMBO OR KATHMANDU UNABLE PROGRAM GROUP.

5. SINCE DEPT FUNDING CONCERT FEES IN INDIA, SRI LANKA AND NEPAL, CONCERT PROCEEDS LEFT (IF ANY) AFTER STAGING, PER DIEM, INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS ARE PAID, WOULD BE SPLIT 50/50 BETWEEN LOCAL SPONSOR AND USG. WILL FORWARD SAMPLE LOCAL SPONSOR CONTRACT AND SOME PRELIMINARY PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL SHORTLY.

6. IN ORDER SAVE ON TRAVEL COSTS, REQUEST INDIA COORDINATE INCLUSION OF SRI LANKA AND NEPAL (BANGLADESH) VISITS IN OVERALL INDIAN SCHEDULE WITH DIVERSIONARY TRAVEL FROM CLOSEST INDIAN CITY.

7. NO ACTIVITY OR TRAVEL SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 12, 19 OR 26.

8. VOA'S WILLIS CONOVER HAS DESCRIBED BYRD AS "THE MASTERFUL 'JACK OF ALL TRADES'". HE IS EQUALLY AT HOME PERFORMING BOTH JAZZ AND CLASSICAL GUITAR. HAS CUT OVER 40 RECORD ALBUMS, PERFORMED ON THE TODAY, TONIGHT, MIKE DOUGLAS, PERRY COMO AND OTHER NATIONAL TV SHOWS; AT NEWPORT AND MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVALS; AS SOLOIST WITH NATIONAL, BALTIMORE, HOUSTON AND MINNESOTA SYMPHONIES; THREE WHITE HOUSE PERFORMANCES INCLUDING 1967 VISIT OF KING/QUEEN OF NEPAL; NUMEROUS COLLEGE ENGAGEMENTS EACH YEAR.

9. TRIO CONCERT PROGRAMS INCLUDE VARIETY OF ENSEMBLE JAZZ, SOLO CLASSICAL GUITAR AS WELL AS POP AND LIGHT ROCK WITH BROAD AUDIENCE APPEAL. BASIC CONCERT PROGRAM WILL BE AVAILABLE NEXT MONTH.

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10. CLASSICAL AND/OR JAZZ WORKSHOPS (WITH OR WITHOUT SIDE MEN) AND APPEARANCES WITH SYMPHONIES CAN BE ARRANGED. WITH LATTER BYRD NORMALLY DOES CLASSICAL SOLO WITH ORCHESTRA. TRIO ALSO CAN PERFORM WITH ORCHESTRA DOING LIGHTER WORKS AKIN TO BOSTON POPS CONCERTS. (REHEARSAL TIME WITH ORCHESTRA WILL BE NECESSARY AND EARLY NOTICE MUST BE RECEIVED HERE SO ORCHESTRAL SCORES CAN BE FORWARDED WHERE

NEEDED).

11. JOE BYRD (BROTHER) APPEARS ON BASS, AND DRUMMER WILL NOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL EARLY DECEMBER.

12. IN ADDITION TO NUMEROUS FOREIGN TOURS, BYRD AND HIS ENSEMBLE HAVE TOURED LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, NEAR

AND FAR EAST UNDER DEPT AUSPICES, INCLUDING 1968 APPEARANCES IN INDIA, NEPAL AND SRI LANKA.

13. UP TO FIVE CONCERTS A WEEK PERMITTED DEPENDING ON TRAVEL SCHEDULE. MATINEE POSSIBLE ON NON-TRAVEL DAY. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE244812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LDCOE:EJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740320-0333
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741165/aaaacdae.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 14245; STATE 228938 (NOTAL,)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 NOV 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CU/ARTS (CU/CP) - CHARLIE BYRD TRIO
TAGS: OEXC, CHARLIE BYRD TRIO
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005